



General Assembly

January Session, 2003

Raised Bill No. 6686

LCO No. 4417

Referred to Committee on Judiciary

Introduced by:
(JUD)

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF DISPROPORTIONATE
MINORITY REPRESENTATION IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this
2 section, "cultural competency plan" means a plan that (1) identifies
3 target racial and ethnic minority groups, (2) assesses cultural, linguistic
4 and social factors creating barriers between such target groups and
5 their receipt of state services or participation in state programs, and (3)
6 implements measures designed to reduce the impact of such barriers.
- 7 (b) The Judicial Department shall develop a cultural competency
8 plan for each of its courts, divisions and offices in the juvenile justice
9 system. Such plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions to
10 address any barriers to family involvement in alternative incarceration
11 programs identified pursuant to subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of
12 section 3 of this act. The Chief Court Administrator shall appoint a
13 cultural competency coordinator to oversee the implementation of and
14 progress made pursuant to such plan.
- 15 (c) The Chief Court Administrator shall:

16 (1) Establish guidelines to ensure that staff in key positions in state-
17 administered or contracted juvenile justice programs, facilities and
18 services are culturally competent, have bilingual abilities and possess
19 the skills necessary to provide services to a diverse client population;

20 (2) Provide on-going training to all such staff in cultural sensitivity,
21 cultural competency and understanding the dynamics of
22 disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system;
23 and

24 (3) Conduct a biannual inventory of juvenile justice caseloads and
25 clients to determine cultural and language profiles.

26 Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) The Judicial Department
27 and the Department of Children and Families shall jointly establish
28 and implement a community mapping system that shall track, on an
29 annual basis and by race, ethnicity, neighborhood and type of crime,
30 the occurrences of arrests, detentions and placements of children who
31 come into contact with the juvenile justice system. Such community
32 mapping system shall (1) determine the geographic relationship
33 between the arrest of a child and the quality of and access to services in
34 the juvenile justice system, and (2) be implemented in accordance with
35 nationally accepted practices that may include, but need not be limited
36 to, practices promulgated by the Haywood Burns Institute.

37 (b) The Judicial Department and the Department of Children and
38 Families shall jointly develop and monitor the implementation of
39 objective criteria for decisions made at each stage in the juvenile justice
40 system, including, but not limited to, detention, release and placement
41 decisions. Any assessment or decision-making instruments used to
42 determine whether a child should be released or detained, or to
43 determine if and where a child should be placed, shall be free of
44 criteria that may create an unintended racial and ethnic bias.

45 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) (a) The Judicial Department
46 and the Department of Children and Families shall:

47 (1) Jointly develop programs of alternatives to incarceration for
48 children that (A) provide crisis response, intensive family support and
49 respite services, (B) directly involve the child's family, (C) focus on the
50 strengths and positive qualities of the child, and (D) replicate existing
51 programs for which evidence of successful outcomes can be shown;

52 (2) Ensure that minority children involved, or at risk of
53 involvement, with the juvenile justice system have equal access to such
54 programs at each stage of the juvenile justice system;

55 (3) Jointly develop a system to track, by race and ethnicity, the
56 utilization of such programs;

57 (4) Jointly conduct an appropriate survey to determine whether any
58 barriers exist to family involvement in such programs; and

59 (5) Encourage family conferencing and parental involvement at each
60 stage of the juvenile justice system and incorporate such conferencing
61 and involvement into treatment programs for children.

62 (b) The evaluation of Connecticut Community KidCare conducted
63 pursuant to subsection (c) of section 17a-22c of the general statutes
64 shall include a review of the programs developed pursuant to
65 subsection (a) of this section for a determination of the cultural
66 competency of such programs and whether such programs are
67 effective in reducing disproportionate minority representation in the
68 juvenile justice system.

69 Sec. 4. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2003*) The Judicial Department
70 shall develop a continuum of court-approved administrative sanctions
71 for youths under the supervision of a juvenile probation officer,
72 including, but not limited to, community service, mentoring, respite
73 home, truancy reduction and mediation programs. Such sanctions
74 shall be imposed by the probation officer prior to seeking an arrest
75 warrant, notice to appear or other court order with respect to a
76 violation by the youth of any of the conditions of probation or

77 suspended commitment or of any valid court order that regulates the
78 future conduct of such youth.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>October 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>October 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To reduce disproportionate minority representation in the juvenile justice system by providing for cultural competency planning, establishing a community mapping system, requiring objective criteria for decision making in the juvenile justice process and developing a continuum of treatment, supervision and placement options and alternatives to incarceration.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]